

The Wall Street jackals, well, they are just thrilled with the stock price. Warren Buffet was bragging on making \$6 billion last quarter with BNSF, which has become the most abusive railroad in the system. They used to be the best. They were the star. I don't know what happened.

Last week, we had to legislate here on the floor of the House. 115,000 rail workers had gone 3 years without a contract. The railroads were intransigent. They couldn't afford pay raises. What? Oh, and no paid sick time. Oh, we couldn't do that.

They testified to the Presidential Emergency Board that record profits were not due to "any contributions by labor." I guess the trains run and maintain themselves.

Despite massive layoffs and a 600 percent increase in productivity of the remaining workforce, I guess it is their just fabulous business acumen that is making all this money.

Because they cut the workforce to the bone, they are particularly adamant that there can be no paid sick time—well, no sick time at all, in fact. They are forcing workers to come to work sick and fatigued in an industry where one little mistake will lose you a limb or might cause a catastrophic accident. There is a 60 percent increase in the violations of time by the railroads.

If they gave all the workers 7 days paid leave, it would take 1 cent off of their profits, 1 cent per dollar of those profits.

Last week, the House voted to lock in the tentative agreements that provide historic pay raises and guarantee reimbursement for work expenses, and they prevented a massive disruption. In addition, 221 Members of the House voted to impose 7 days of paid sick leave—with only three Republicans. Pretty pathetic, guys. Pretty pathetic.

Congress took action because we recognized who makes this country great, who makes it run. It is frontline workers. Without them, just under one-third of our country's freight would sit idle.

It is time for the railroads to face the music. Precision scheduled railroading is an abject failure. Your service is atrocious. You treat your workers with no respect. Don't come crying to the Federal Railroad Administration and Congress to bail you out for your inepititude, greed, and profit taking. If you can't provide your workers with paid sick time because you don't have enough people working, well, then, maybe the CEOs could take a shift in the rail yard to cover them.

It is time for this to end. Unfortunately, it didn't last week because the Senate overrode us.

I thank my staff who worked so hard on this legislation last week: Auke Mahar-Piersma, Andrea Wohleber, Frances Bourne, Katherine Ambrose, Alice Koethe, Jill Harrelson, Kathy Dedrick, and all the other fabulous members of my team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BOONE AND CHURCH BAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize four members of the Boone and Church Band, who recently won the 95th Annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) National Convention Talent Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jaxton Boone, Ethan Church, Eli Church, and Walker Boone performed before a crowd of 62,000 at the convention and came away with a resounding victory, and they were the only applicants from North Carolina.

What is most impressive, Mr. Speaker, is the backgrounds of these young men. Eli, Ethan, and Jaxton are all current high school students, and Walker is a full-time college student.

Two others associated with the Boone and Church Band deserve recognition: Colton Boone, another recent high school graduate balancing college courses with a full-time job, and Lynn Church, a father who manages the group.

The six-member group has traveled across western North Carolina since 2016 and has performed at church services, fairs, and even festivals.

Mr. Speaker, I had the great fortune of hearing them this weekend at the Avery County Historical Museum, and I saw firsthand how great they are. While they make beautiful music, they also really enjoy themselves as they perform. It was so uplifting to be there to see that.

Their caliber of talent is awe-inspiring, Mr. Speaker. Based on the variety of songs that they perform, they use 10 different instruments, such as a banjo, mandolin, fiddle, and piano, to name a few.

Together, they blend a variety of music styles, including bluegrass and southern gospel. But what is truly magnificent, aside from their wonderful talents, is how these musicians live the truth found within the gospel every single day. The lives they lead and their relationship with God is directly reflected in the music they share with so many people.

Truly, they are a shining example of what makes western North Carolina so great.

Congratulations, again, to the Boone and Church Band on this wonderful accomplishment.

May God continue to bless them and their great work.

#### SAVE FRANCHISEES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's destructive regulatory agenda is jeopardizing the franchise model. President Biden will stop at nothing to advance big labor's agenda, even if it means harming workers. The Biden administration is working overtime to shove as many workers as possible into unions, regardless of worker preference.

The Biden administration's proposed joint employer rule will fundamentally destroy the franchise model by taking autonomy away from individual franchise owners, depriving them of the ability to run their own businesses.

Being able to own a franchise business, like a fast-food restaurant, is a ticket to the American Dream, especially for women and minorities.

Americans who invested their time and energy into building a business do not deserve to have it snatched away all because President Biden wants to appease big labor.

To save the American Dream for these businessowners and promote better opportunities for our entire workforce, Republicans will oppose this dangerous power grab. Instead, we will support policies that put workers and job creators first.

□ 1215

#### RECOGNIZING OLEH SHTEFANCHUK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oleh, or "Odee," Shtefanchuk from Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

Odee is currently a foreign exchange student who is studying at WACO Community High School in Wayland, Iowa.

Growing up, Odee heard of American football, and when he enrolled at WACO Community High School, his friends convinced him to try out for the football team.

Even though Odee is still learning the rules and procedures, he has been instrumental in leading the Warriors in an undefeated season and an appearance in the State title game.

I thank the coaches, the faculty, and the students of WACO Community High School for showing Odee why Iowa is the best place to work, live, play, and raise a family.

I would also acknowledge December 7 as Pearl Harbor Day, a day that we should long remember as it cements to us the importance of our rights under our Constitution.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON) at 2 p.m.